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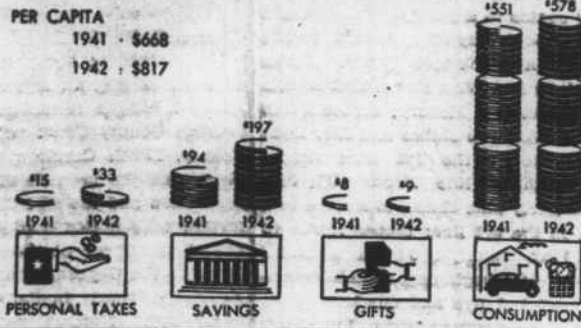
WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Catania's Capture Marked Beginning Of Axis Last Stand in Sicily Battle; Red Offensive Crumples Nazi Flanks; Yanks Continue Gains in Pacific Drive

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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TELEFACT

WHERE THE AVERAGE CIVILIAN INCOME WENT



SICILY:

Last Stand

Forty thousand Axis troops were all that were left to stand between the Allies and complete conquest of Sicily as the last phase of the battle developed. Of the 40,000, it was estimated that 35,000 were German and the rest Italian.

Although heavily outnumbered by the 10 Allied divisions reported in action, the Axis relied on strong natural entrenchments hewed into the rugged mountains to hold up the British-American drive. The advance against these positions was difficult, with the infantry slowly picking its way up the craggy but barren slopes in the face of stiff mortar and machine gun nests which had held their ground even after fierce Allied artillery barrage.

After being stalled for two weeks in front of Catania, the British 8th army spilled into the city after overcoming strong Axis positions set up along the several rivers winding through the country and in the tall fields of grain. Aided by the navy's bombardment of the enemy's coastal positions along the Tyrrhenian sea, the U. S. 7th army's drive pointed eastward to Messina, the Axis' last communication link with the Italian mainland.

MINERS:

For Travel Pay

Pride might cometh before the fall, but in John L. Lewis' case, it was his interest in drawing underground pay for his 500,000 United Mine Workers that accounted for his appearance before the War Labor Board which he had so often berated in the past.

Occasion was the WLB's hearing on the Illinois Coal Operators' and UMW's agreement for payment of \$1.25 a day to the miners for the time spent in traveling underground from the mine's entrance to the diggings. Lewis told the WLB that American coal miners are the only miners in any civilized country who receive no compensation for underground travel.

The agreement also calls for an eight instead of a seven hour day and a six-day work week, which, with the underground travel pay, would increase miners' daily checks by \$3. Stating that 1,482 miners died from risks in the pits last year and 72,000 were seriously injured, Lewis said the extra working hours would increase the men's exposure to such accidents. Furthermore, he declared, the miners received just \$37 more a year than the lowest classification of government clerical workers.

GRAIN:

Going East

Six hundred million bushels of corn were used during the second quarter of 1943, the department of agriculture reported, with supplies as of July 1 totaling 872 million bushels. Of this amount, 842 million bushels remained on farms.

As of July 1, the department stated that there was a supply of 290 million bushels of oats; over 200 million bushels of barley, and 46 million bushels of rye. Approximately 300 million bushels of wheat were found available for feed.

In relation to livestock, feed supply is reported to be 20 per cent smaller than last year and 14 per cent below average.

Faster Than Sound

To Lt. Col. Cass S. Hough of Plymouth, Mich., fell the rare distinction of traveling faster than sound, or more than 780 miles per hour, while undertaking two experimental flights for the U. S. army air force.

Last September, Col. Hough's P-38 Lightning climbed up to 43,000 feet. Then, he coolly nosed the plane into a powerdive and the zoomed downward at the record speed before leveling off at 18,000 feet. Last February, Col. Hough took a P-47 Thunderbolt to 39,000 feet, and repeated the previous performance.

According to the 36-year-old daredevil, he made his first flight on impulse. As his plane went screaming downward, he said, it felt as though a ton of bricks lay on his back, and he could barely lift his arms to write down the recordings of his instruments. When he leveled off at 18,000 feet, everything went grey, he declared, but he never lost consciousness.

FARM LAND: Value Rising

With the value of all farm land now above World War I level, government officials were becoming anxious over the possibility of another realty boom which would collapse with a disastrous drop in prices as in the twenties.

Between March and July of this year, farm real estate rose another 3 per cent. The increase occurred throughout all of the geographical regions and in two-thirds of the states. In Indiana, farm property sold 40 per cent above the 1935-39 average.

With commodity prices up one-fourth within the last 12 months and farm income for 1943 expected to exceed 1942's record levels, farmers were said to be active buyers in the market. What with high commodity prices prevailing, speculators also were supposed to be purchasing property for resale.

WAR ARSENAL: 80 Pct. Complete

Of the government's planned construction of 14½ billion dollars of war plant facilities, approximately 12 billion dollars has been completed, Chairman Donald Nelson of the War Production board announced. That represents a completion of 80 per cent of the program compared with 61 per cent at the start of the year and 34 per cent last summer.

Greatest gains in the program were in the construction of plants for guns, combat vehicles, aircraft and ammunition. Facilities for producing ammunition are 95 per cent complete.

According to Nelson, the records for other programs showed synthetic rubber, 61 per cent finished; 100 octane gas, 39 per cent; iron and steel, 75 per cent, and chemical products, 90 per cent.

Production Lags

Production of armaments and other goods needed by the army is lagging seriously, Lieut. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, chief of army supply services, warned. He said that 300 million dollars' worth of supplies have not been delivered according to schedule in the last three months. Output of factories has been going down steadily, he continued, with July figures "decidedly worse" than those of June.

At the same time the treasury reported that actual war spending during July was half a billion dollars less than in June, this being the first month in which war costs have turned downward. Commentators say this decline is another indication of lower production, rather than smaller needs.

Urging all contractors to fulfill their contracts, General Somervell said: "If as a manufacturer, you are scheduled to produce a certain quantity of war material by a specific date, you have undertaken a specific military obligation."

CARGO PLANES: Back to Metal

New developments prompted the army's cancellation of contracts for all wooden transport airplanes and the return to metallic construction.

The wooden craft were designed to operate from small, unimproved landing fields and carry 4,500 pounds of cargo at medium range. But partly because of Allied air dominance, good airports have been put in use in distant combat zones, and the demand has shifted to faster, longer-range planes.

Furthermore, it was reported, aluminum production has increased in a volume sufficient to take care of additional plane building, while certain woods suitable for the type of transport designed are growing scarce.

Mussolini's Meteoric Career Recalled as He Makes Exit

How Italy's Master Rose to Power and Why He Collapsed

By ELLIOTT J. PINE

On July 25, 1943, Benito Mussolini, dictator of Italy for 21 years, tearfully resigned his offices, and turned his government over to King Victor Emmanuel. The immediate reason for the dictator's relinquishing of power is said to be his inability to obtain greater military aid from Germany. The Fascist council voted 19 to 7 against accepting his plan of abandoning more than half the country to the Allies, and of establishing a defense line in the north. When Mussolini realized that he could not enforce his will as he was accustomed, he stepped out, or according to other accounts, was forced out.

More basic than this dispute on war plans, however, was the increasing and bitter distrust of Mussolini, and the Fascist party he headed. The Italian people, most observers say, never wished to enter World War II. Defeats, losses and hardships have turned the people of Italy away from Fascism, and revolt was brewing ever hotter. When Mussolini went, Fascism ended too.

King Victor Emmanuel, who has always retained the shadow of authority, has given the official version of the situation in this statement: "His Majesty, the King-Emperor, has accepted the resignation from the offices of chief of government, prime minister, and secretary of state, which was tendered by His Excellency, signor Benito Mussolini, and has appointed as chief of government, prime minister, and secretary of state, His Excellency, Marshal of Italy, signor Pietro Badoglio."

At the time this statement was made public, it was pretended that Mussolini's ill health was the reason for his leaving office, but this rather weak excuse was soon dropped.

The new government thus established by the king and Marshal Badoglio is generally considered to signify the end of the Fascist party. The structure that held Italy tightly for two decades apparently has collapsed by the removal of one man. Actually the party has been crumbling from within for years, say informed correspondents.

Fascism Began 24 Years Ago

"Fascism" as a name dates from March 23, 1919, when Mussolini and 145 others organized the "Fasci Italiani di Combattimento" meaning, "Italian fighting groups." The word "Fasci" comes from the old Roman symbol of authority, the "Fasces," a beheading ax with a bundle of scourging rods bound on the handle. It can be seen on the reverse of an American dime.

During the following two years, this little party increased rapidly. While Mussolini did not actually found it, perhaps, he at least was one of its earliest and strongest leaders. He soon came out in front, a vigorous man of 38, with a compelling manner and oratorical persuasiveness.

He was born in 1884, the son of a village blacksmith and country school teacher, in Predappio, Romagna province. When he completed grade school, he became a teacher in a neighboring village, and soon took to stump speaking for the Socialist party. His political activities brought him into several clashes with the law. He became a writer, and rose to be editor of the Socialist organ, "Avanti!"

During World War I, he served as a corporal, and he participated in the Fiume campaign of 1919. Soon after being discharged from service he met a few kindred spirits, and began the organization of the Fascists.

It was a time of great unrest and unemployment. Although victorious in the war, Italy had suffered heavy losses, and was oppressed by a ponderous war debt. Being a country naturally poor in resources and only slightly industrialized at the time, the post-war depression bore down more weightily than on other nations. Many were embittered about their frustrated hopes for territorial gains through the Versailles treaty. They blamed Britain and France for leaving Italy out.

The wealthy and conservative class feared the spread of communism, and many churchmen added their voices to the clamor. The na-

tional assembly was divided into numerous bickering and log-rolling factions, and the premier, signor Facta, was not a strong enough man for a crisis.

The March on Rome

Assembling the Fascist militia, the party's private army, in Civitavecchia, on October 27, 1922, he began the famous "March on Rome." When he approached the capital with 250,000 armed men, Premier Facta, and Marshal (then General) Badoglio begged the king, the same Victor Emmanuel, to stop the marchers with machine gun fire and the bayonets of the regular army. The king, who hated bloodshed, refused to give the order. Three days later, he acceded to Mussolini's demands, and appointed him premier. From that day onward, Mussolini has been continuously in complete control of Italy, until the other day. Ironically, he turned his power over to Victor Emmanuel and Badoglio, who might have stopped him 21 years earlier.

As soon as Mussolini found himself firmly in the saddle, he set about making himself and his party absolute. All political parties were banned except the Fascist, and many social, cultural and religious societies were closed down under the force of these laws. Party members were placed in every position of authority in the civil and military administration. Business and professional men soon found it to their advantage to join the party, or to get on good terms with some important member.

For a time, the Fascist regime appeared to be a decided benefit to Italy. Domestic order was restored, business and finance stabilized and



DON'T BOTHER THE PILOT—A propaganda poster showing Mussolini at the controls of a big bombing plane (he is an amateur flier), warned Italians in 1939 "not to disturb the pilot, especially when he is engaged in tempestuous navigation; nor ask the way at every turn."

This appeal for blind and unquestioning faith in the wisdom of the leader is the keynote of Fascism, as of all dictatorships. Mussolini "piloted" Italy into the war, then when the navigation really got "tempestuous" he "bailed out."

encouraged, employment stimulated by public works, and a program of social benefits put into operation. The Fascist regime floated international loans, built hydroelectric plants, opened mines, drained swamps, introduced new manufactures, and in many ways brought temporary advantages and prosperity to Italy, accustomed to backwardness and poverty.

But the Italians soon discovered the price of these gains was the loss of liberty. In 1925, Mussolini, or Il Duce, "the leader," as he liked to be called, had a law passed legalizing his position as prime minister, and rendering him responsible to no one but the king. This meant, in effect, that he could do as he pleased.

During the twenties Italy shared somewhat in the prosperity of the post-war world, but the great depression fell heavily on the nation, the more so because of its reliance on international trade. Its artificial prosperity began to crumble, despite tight controls, and unrest and dissatisfaction began to fester here and there, under cover.

Land Hunger

Meanwhile Mussolini was thinking of expanding Italy territorially. The League of Nations had prevented him from undertaking any small wars of conquest, such as were common in the 19th century. In 1923, he had a "causid belli" against Greece, but he did not push the issue to open war. Nothing occupied his large army excepting patrol action in North Africa.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler rose to power as chancellor of Germany, as head of the National Socialists, or Nazis, a party that had much in common with the Fascists of Italy. Mussolini soon welcomed his imitator, and began to plan international adventures.

Nevertheless, a year later, when Hitler began to threaten Austria, Il Duce offered to support that weak state. Next year Italy declared war

'Let Us Live Like Lions'



IN HIS SECOND YEAR of rule, 1923, Premier Mussolini was already showing his yearning to rattle the sword. He sent such a sharp diplomatic note to Greece on the murder of members of an Italian commission on the Greek-Albanian frontier, that world cancelleries feared a war was near.

on Ethiopia, Mussolini's first openly imperialistic move, and a successful defiance of the League.

Italian and German policies were moving closer together through similarity of interests, and Hitler and Mussolini began concluding a series of treaties and agreements that culminated in the formation of the "Rome-Berlin Axis."

Both Italy and Germany sent troops into the Spanish civil war. The Italian troops showed even then their distaste for fighting, but the officers gained valuable experience with new weapons and tactics, especially airplanes and tanks.

Mussolini joined in signing the Munich Agreement that was supposed to assure "peace in our time" as Neville Chamberlain put it. Knowing that a great war was around the corner Mussolini then turned his attention to bringing his army, navy, and especially his air force to full strength.

'Stab in the Back'

When France was staggering to defeat in the spring of 1940, Mussolini thought he saw the long sought opportunity for important territorial acquisitions without much loss or risk. He entered to war on the side of Germany, hoping to get a few French islands. President Roosevelt characterized this move as a "stab in the back." From then on, Italy was in World War II. All looked rosy as long as the German blitzkrieg continued to smash ahead, but in 1941 English troops defeated the Italians in two widely separated African campaigns, and the Italian navy lost heavily in several actions.

Last year Italy went on the defensive. Mussolini sent some divisions to fight against Russia, others to North Africa, with the German Africa corps. Both sustained defeat and severe losses. The Italian people began to grumble ever louder against Fascism and Mussolini. He pinned medals on bereaved mothers and wives, made his famous balcony speeches, and tried to whip up morale with posters, parades of the youth organizations, and every other trick in his bag. But it didn't work.

Then came the North African campaign, when the Italian soldiers surrendered in large masses, plainly revealing their war-weariness. The invasion of Sicily moved so swiftly, not only because of the weight of armaments, but because of feeble resistance at many points. Everywhere the people welcomed the Allied troops.

When Rome was bombed, Mussolini's long hypnotic spell was broken. If he could not even protect the capital, said the people, how could he hope for victory? The Italians were tired of war, tired of privations and restrictions. Il Duce got out, just in time, according to majority opinion, to avert a civil war.



FASCISM ON THE RUN—A photograph showing Mussolini setting the pace for his army officers during maneuvers in September, 1933, ironically symbolizes the hasty exit of Fascism in July, 1943. This time, too, the running was fittingly led by Il Duce.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Officials counting the ballots in the South African general election flash the word that Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts

High Scholarship war regime And Grim Warfare have gained Divide Smut's Life a clear majority, and there is rejoicing in all the Allied capitals. Back at the turn of the century no Boer military leader fought the British more bitterly than did this now bald and grizzled warrior of 73. Often hungry, often shoeless, he waged guerrilla warfare of the toughest sort then. Since that fighting ended, however, he has battled steadfastly on the side of the Empire.

It was he who crushed a Boer uprising at the start of World War I and went on to conquer the Germans in East Africa and become a British general. He saved South Africa for the United Nations, too, in 1920, routing the pro-Nazi forces of the late Gen. J. B. M. Hertzog at the polls for the second time after a 15 year lapse. His latest victory keeps South Africa firmly in the war.

Son of a poor and tough Dutch farmer, who trekked across the veldt with a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other, Smuts had reached his teens before he could read. Later he won high honors as a student at Cambridge university. Today with his pointed beard whitened by age he is still a paradox, a hard and cunning and skillful fighter and a philosopher who dares dream of a peaceful world. What's more he plans and works for that world even as he fights.

PENNANTS have been flown for the WAVES' first anniversary and Navy Secretary Frank Knox button-holed congressmen to win for the organization's She's the Old Man of the Waves, This lieutenant Feminine Gal of 43 commander a full captaincy. This, he argues, is the least Miss Mildred McAfee deserves, particularly if the force is to be raised from 27,000 to 91,000.

Commander McAfee's name of record is Mildred Helen; but usually it is plain Mildred, the "Helen" being silent, as in Troy these last 3,300 years. To Wellesley undergraduates she was Miss Mac. The WAVES, perily aptly the real navy, call her the Old Man, a title that skirts the reefs of libel, since the commander is a mere 43 and not manish. Trim, yes! Perhaps even a trifle prim. But her hair is black, short-cut and crinkly; her cheeks pass inspection easily with only a powder-puff's help—and her eyes! Her smile is lively, when it comes. And from any compass point she is not bad, not bad at all.

On the day she was sworn in, her smile seemed a little ironic while beaming Secretary Knox administered the oath. Maybe, however, it was only held in check by her usual reserve. The commander is a preacher's daughter and was born in Missouri. She studied at Vassar and Chicago and taught through French, English, economics and sociology before she reached the presidency of Wellesley. In spite of the powder puff which is her limit, she wants her WAVES "to look human."

WORD comes out of Sicily that the jeep, that mechanical jack-rabbit of the American army, is now herding stampeded Axis armies from Palermo to Messina, and Delmar G. ("Barney") Roos must be saying, "That's my baby."

More than one man in the automotive industry can claim a good mark for the blue prints from which was designed the low-slung combat car of Col. Robert Howie's dream, but if anyone deserves to be called the jeep's daddy it is probably Barney. He was working on it as early as the spring of 1940.

Roos is a past president of the Society of Automotive Engineers and has had an adoring eye for engines of some sort ever since he cut classes to visit a roundhouse in the Bronx. He was born in New York 36 years ago, studied engineering at Cornell and won a batch of fencing titles.

Presenting to You Delmar G. Roos, Proud Dad of Jeep